

# Duxbury Clipper



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**DOWNHILL DELIGHT:** Eager children headed to the Miramar Retreat Center Monday to enjoy some snowy fun, including l-r: Devon Schiller, 4; Brannon Ecker, 3; Dylan Ecker, 5; Justin Ecker, 6; and Cameron Schiller, 7.

## Blizzard Blankets Town with Snow

By KEITH L. MARTIN

If Sunday was a day to stay in, Monday was a day to dig out, as residents of Duxbury responded to the nearly 30 inches of snow that blanketed the town.

While many hibernated at home from the beginning of the snow late Saturday night to the last snowflake nearly 24 hours later, town officials were out in force to keep residents safe, and clear what roads they could despite whipping winds and heavy snowfall.

Fire Chief Kevin Nord, who also serves as the town's emergency management director, said that he opened the Emergency Operations Center at the Central Fire Station as well as a shelter at

the Duxbury Senior Center as a result of the weekend storm. Nord said that since Governor Mitt Romney declared a state of emergency for the state, he and the Emergency Management Agency made a similar declaration for Duxbury, which entitles the town to additional funding sources to respond to the heavy snow.

Nord said that about 10 people took advantage of the shelter and that his firefighters and the police department conducted checks on elderly citizens to offer a ride to the senior center and to ensure they were safe.

Fire department engines also responded to Gurnet Road and Powder Point

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# Blizzard Blankets Town with Snow

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Avenue to deal with coastal flooding, a move Nord said worked out very well.

"We had a flood a couple feet deep on Gurnet Road and we were also close to a reported house fire nearby where flooding caused a small electrical fire, so our proactive approach served us well," he said.

Fire officials spent Monday shoveling out the nearly 500 fire hydrants around town in case of emergency; they encourage anyone with a snowblower or who can shovel out a hydrant near their home to assist if they can. Nord added that residents who have power vents for their heating system should also move any snow blocking them to avoid a buildup of carbon monoxide in the home.

All the extra manpower during the weekend was costly, added Nord, estimating about \$5,000 for extra staff from 6 p.m. Saturday to 6 p.m. on Monday.

The winter wallop also hit the wallets at the DPW office, according to Director Tom Daley. He said that his crews and contractors were out sanding and plowing town roads all weekend long and that all the town's equipment held up well to the tons of snow it needed to pick up, move aside or cut through.



Harrison Street's John Renner spent the better part of Monday morning trying to free his truck from the blizzard's blockade.

Daley said drivers began around 4 p.m. on Saturday and he let them break around 9 p.m. on Sunday night to rest up and be back to work at 5 a.m. on Monday.

The result of all this work, he said, has had a negative effect on the town's snow budget.

"This storm will wrap up our snow budget," he said. "We've operated in the black all winter, which is great, but now we're going to run into a deficit. A lot of other towns around us got into the red before us."

Police Lt. Roger Banfill said officers responded to a number of outages and downed power lines on Sunday and that the most serious incident was a tree that fell near Franklin and West streets, knocking down several wires and shutting down the area for just over four hours.

"Everybody seemed to stay home which is great from a safety standpoint, but for those who were out and got into trouble, we had shovels to help them out," he said.

Harbormaster Don Beers

said that Duxbury Beach didn't get hit as hard as was expected, but said that his office did measure winds as high as 77 miles per hour whipping up snowdrifts all along the waterfront.

"The snow fence did take a beating and we had a bit of debris on some of the back roads by the beach, but by and large, the beach did okay," he said. "This was only a one-day, 24 hour event, which is not enough to destroy the beach. It is the three-day nor'easters that really do damage to Duxbury Beach."

## FOOTBALL SACKS BLIZZARD BLUES

Luckily for many in town, the electricity and cable television were up and running by the start of the Patriots' championship game versus the Steelers, which many made the centerpiece of their snowed-in Sunday.

Harrison Street's Mike Tenney estimated he spent about six hours on Sunday and Monday trying to free the vehicles in his driveway from the wall of snow behind them. Using a snowblower and a shovel, Tenney said that he called it a day right before the Pats game Sunday night and picked up where he left off the



"It's pretty picturesque," he said. "You have to have a good attitude about all this snow because there's nothing you can really do."

Tenney's neighbor, John Renner, said he shoveled only a small path for his dog on Sunday before being front and center for the football game and then got to work on the real heavy lifting Monday morning.

"If you go back to the big storm in 1978, we survived that, but this is a lot worse, I think," he said. "We lost some shingles on our roof, so I'm out here shoveling snow and

discovering some shingles mixed in with all the powder."

While Sunday brought a relaxing day watching the Patriots win, Renner knew what Monday would bring after all that shoveling.

"I've been out here for about four hours and I'm only doing it until I can get my truck free," he said. "The rest of the day, I'll probably be using BenGay."

The weekend storm was so powerful that it essentially shut down the town with some businesses remaining closed for two days and even resulting in a quiet Town Hall and Duxbury Free Library on Monday. Scheduled Board of Selectmen and Planning Board meetings for Monday night were also canceled.

But for Duxbury students, the best part of the storm seemed to be snow days to start the school week on Monday and Tuesday.

"It's great there's no school because it means more time for sledding," said 12-year-old Buzz Ryan of Driftwood Drive, who took to the hill at Miramar Retreat Center on Monday with brother Charlie, 7.

Also enjoying the sledding at Miramar were the Schiller family of Temple Street and the Eckers of Depot Street, who were both pretty upbeat despite being bombarded with snow.

"I loved being snowed in," said Pam Schiller, who brought four-year-old Devon and seven-year-old Cameron to the snowy hill. "The kids may not see snow like this for years so we'll do some sledding, have some hot cocoa and just have some fun."

While sleds created paths down the snowy slope at Miramar, plow drivers were making their own tracks on town roads and driveways around town, including Emmett Sheehan of Eagles Nest Tree and Landscaping.

"We've been out since 8 p.m. Saturday and shut down from about 12 to 4 a.m. on Monday, just plowing out places around Powder Point," he said. "We've gone through snow piles as big as a 20-foot, 200-yard drift. Down here is worse than the storm in 1978, so we'll just keep going to clear the way the best we can."



Snow drifts piled high around the Powder Point Bridge.